

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Original) An apparatus for testing a packaged integrated circuit of the
2 type incorporating a radiation sensing element comprising: a load board provided with electrical
3 circuitry for interfacing with the packaged integrated circuit to be tested; a test socket, said test
4 socket being mounted on said load board and being adapted to provide electrical connections
5 between said packaged integrated circuit and said load board; a plunger for retaining said
6 packaged integrated circuit within said test socket; and a radiation source mounted on said load
7 board adjacent to said test socket wherein a radiation pathway is provided in said plunger, said
8 pathway directing radiation emitted by said radiation source through said plunger to the radiation
9 sensing element of said packaged integrated circuit.
- 1 2. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the radiation
2 pathway is a generally U-shaped pathway through the plunger.
- 1 3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~
2 wherein a first end of the pathway is adjacent to the radiation source and a second end of the
3 pathway is adjacent to the sensing element of the packaged integrated circuit when the plunger is
4 used to retain the packaged integrated circuit within the test socket.
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1
2 wherein said pathway is adapted for directing radiation from one end to its other end by the
3 provision of radiation directing means.
- 1 5. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the radiation
2 directing means comprises two or more prisms mounted within the pathway.

1 6. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the radiation
2 directing means comprises a bundle of collimated optical fibres mounted within the pathway.

1 7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1
2 wherein the radiation source is operative to emit a radiation pattern which is directed to the
3 radiation sensing element of the packaged integrated circuit via the pathway.

1 8. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the radiation
2 pattern comprises spatial and/or temporal variations in the intensity and/or frequency of radiation
3 emitted by the radiation source.

1 9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~
2 wherein the spatial position of the radiation pattern on the light source can be varied to
3 compensate for minor misalignment between the plunger, the radiation source and the packaged
4 integrated circuit.

1 10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1
2 wherein the area of the radiation source is equal to or greater than the cross-sectional area of the
3 pathway.

1 11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1
2 wherein the cross-sectional area of the pathway is greater than or equal to the area of the sensing
3 element of the packaged integrated circuit.

1 12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1
2 wherein the shape of the radiation source, cross-section of the pathway and the sensing element
3 of the packaged integrated circuit are similar.

1 13. (Original) A method of testing packaged integrated circuits of the type
2 incorporating a radiation sensing element comprising the following steps: inserting said
3 packaged integrated circuit into a test socket, said test socket being mounted on a load board and

4 being adapted to provide electrical connections between said packaged integrated circuit and said
5 load board wherein said load board is provided with electrical circuitry for interfacing with the
6 packaged integrated circuit to be tested; retaining the packaged integrated circuit in the test
7 socket by applying pressure with a plunger; and directing radiation from a radiation source
8 mounted on said load board adjacent to said test socket through a radiation pathway provided in
9 said plunger, thereby exposing the radiation sensing element to a suitable radiation signal emitted
10 by the radiation emitting means.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said
2 pathway is adapted to direct radiation from one end to its other end by the provision of a
3 radiation directing system ~~implemented using the apparatus of claims 1 to 13.~~

1 15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the radiation directing system
2 includes two or more prisms positioned within the pathway.

1 16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the radiation directing system
2 includes a bundle of collimated optical fibers located within the pathway.